

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON BREZHNEV-CARTER MEETING
IN ALASKA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GWERTZMAN ARTICLE IN JUNE 29, 1977
NEW YORK TIMES ENTITLED "CARTER SEEKING TO MEET BREZHNEV;
INFORMAL TALKS IN ALASKA POSSIBLE."

2. BEGIN TEXT. PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH
LEONID I. BREZHNEV, POSSIBLY THIS YEAR, BUT NO TIME OR
PLACE HAS BEEN FIXED, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY.

ONE POSSIBILITY, OFFICIALS SAID, IS FOR THE SOVIET LEADER
TO HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH MR. CARTER IN ALASKA, SIMILAR
TO A THREE-DAY MEETING BETWEEN MR. BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT
GERALD R. FORD IN VLADIVOSTOK IN NOVEMBER, 1974.

THE WHITE HOUSE SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT "THE PRESIDENT IS
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LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH MR. BREZHNEV AT A MUTUALLY
AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE."

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE, MEETING WITH A GROUP OF

REPORTERS THIS MORNING, SAID THE QUESTION OF WHEN SUCH A
MEETING SHOULD BE HELD DEPENDED ON MR. BREZHNEV.

THE WHITE HOUSE DISCLOSED THAT ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT LAST WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR ANATOLY F. DOBRYNIN OF THE SOVIET UNION.

A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS WOULD BE AIMED AT CLEARING THE AIR AND ALLOWING THEM TO BECOME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED. THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE A NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS BEFORE THE CURRENT, FIVE-YEAR ACCORD EXPIRES ON OCTOBER 3.

MR VANCE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT A NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BY THAT TIME, BUT THAT THIS IN ITSELF WAS NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM. HE HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT IT IS BETTER NOT TO APPEAR TO BE SIGNING AN ACCORD IN HASTE, AND THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER THE FIVE-YEAR ACCORD LAPSES SO LONG AS NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN TRAIN FOR A NEW ONE.

MR. BREZHNEV, WHO RECENTLY TOOK ON THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT TO COMPLEMENT HIS MORE IMPORTANT POSITION AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS WANTED TO MEET WITH MR. CARTER FOR SOME TIME.

BUT SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THERE HAS TO BE
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THE LIKELIHOOD OF A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD BEFORE A MEETING CAN BE HELD. THAT WAS ALSO THE VIEW OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

MR. BRZEZINSKI AND MR. CARTER HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT THERE IS VALUE IN A CARTER-BREZHNEV MEETING EVEN WITHOUT A NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY.

MR. VANCE, IN THE BREAKFAST MEETING, AFFIRMED THAT SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES REMAINED IN THE ARMS TALKS BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS WHEN HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO AGREED UPON A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLETING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE FIVE-YEAR ACCORD THAT EXPIRES IN OCTOBER PUTS CURBS ON EACH SIDE'S LANDBASED AND SUBMARINE-BASED INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCHERS. MR. VANCE HAS SAID THERE MAY BE AN EXTENSION SIGNED OR JUST AN UNDERSTANDING NOT TO ALTER THE TERMS OF THE ACCORD PENDING COMPLETION OF THE NEW NEGOTIATIONS.

SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ADVOCATED NOT TRYING TO

COMPLETE THE ACCORD BEFORE OCTOBER SO AS NOT TO APPEAR TO
BE RUSHING INTO AN ACCORD AND THEREBY GIVING CRITICS A
RALLYING POINT. VANCE

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